Liverpool, Nov. 3, 1846.

My Dear Madam:

44 Your letter of the 29th ult. has just been put into my hands; and though I am in the midst of pressing engagements & duties, in consequence of preparing to leave in the steamer Acadia for Boston, ~~to-morrow~~ I lose no time in sending you a reply.

You desire me to return you the manuscript which Mr. Clarkson put into my hands, ~~to-day~~, containing his views on the Dissolution of the American Union, in connexion with the subject of slavery. Why you wish me to return it, you do not state, excepting that you "would not like to lose it." I intend to preserve it, with all care & fidelity, both for its intrinsic value, and as a token of his regard for my anti-slavery services in the U. S. I must, therefore, respectfully decline complying with your request, trusting that you will readily see that I must necessarily prize the Mss. very highly, and that no other person in the world, inasmuch as it was entrusted to my care by Mr. Clarkson, has so valid a claim to its possession as myself.

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When I visited Mr. Clarkson, I did not know or imagine that he had any such manuscript. He gave it to me, not only without solicitation, but as much to my surprise as pleasure. Moreover, he ~~He~~ gave me full liberty to do with it whatever I might deem best; but, before its ~~was~~ publication in any form, he desired me to revise it carefully with my esteemed friend Geo. Thompson, and to make such alterations as the sense or grammar might require. The copy of it, which appeared in the London Patriot, was given verbatim, without a very few trifling corrections, in no wise affecting the sentiments of the writer.

Why do you object to my retaining the Ms.? Or on what ground do you claim a right to it, transcending my own? Or why do you reproach Mr. Thompson, as though as he had committed a serious wrong? You express "deep sorrow for what has taken place." ~~What?~~ ~~Whether you are offended to the news of~~ Why are others so ~~?~~ Is it because the Ms. was given to me, in preference to some other person? or because you disapprove of the sentiments expressed by Mr. Clarkson? If on the former

ground, I shall be sorry to be deemed
by you
unworthy of this mark of confidence and
respect; if on the latter, I can only say,
that I believe ~~that~~ those sentiments are
worthy of the name and fame of Clark-
son, and thus believing, I am persuaded
their publication will greatly promote
the abolition of men in slavery, — per-
haps startling to some, in their applica-
tion to that "covenant with death," the
Am. Constitution.

Wm Gossiaux to Wms Clarkson